

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Hearing date: April 12, 2017  
Josephine County, SUPPORT SB 1037

Director Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families  
Mary Middleton  
PO Box 1183  
Grants Pass, OR 97528  
[marymiddleton@osff.org](mailto:marymiddleton@osff.org)



**Thank you Sen. Dembrow and all members of the Committee for holding this hearing today and for the opportunity to speak with you to request your support of SB 1037.**

**As the Director of OSFF, I represent the 16,137 citizens who resoundingly voted to adopt the Josephine County Genetically Engineered Plant Ordinance in May, 2014. Jackson County voters enacted a similar ordinance the same day, effectively making Southern Oregon a GMO-Free Zone.**

**Josephine County is a diverse rural community with people from all walks of life, including farmers, restaurant owners, educators, parents, medical professionals, students and business owners, liberal, conservative, progressive, and libertarian alike, all of whom came together on this issue to protect our farmers. We are a chartered home rule county, and our citizenry as a whole has a strong belief and respect in the political process.**

**During the 2014 campaign, more than 50 farms, hundreds of farmers, and more than 150 local businesses signed on in support of the Ordinance to protect our farms and community from the threat of genetic contamination due to pollen drift blowing in the wind.**

**The Will of the People, in rejecting GE crops to protect family farms, was made very clear in southern Oregon. Therefore, I am asking you to support SB 1037, which will not only honor the will of the people of Josephine County, but will also allow other communities throughout Oregon to put the interests of local family farms above the interests of outside chemical corporations.**

**Finally, I'd like to end with a point of discussion that was presented by the Oregon Farm Bureau earlier this year. In Oregon our farmers and communities need FLEXIBILITY. The Flexibility to make their own agricultural decisions. The flexibility to protect our rural communities and the flexibility to utilize the legislative process set forth by our forefathers. By supporting SB 1037, you can do just that. Thank you again for your time and attention today.**